****Trouble Spots: *Simple vs. progressive tenses***

Additional exercises: Solutions

1. These fields belong to Farmer Spud.

* *They belong to him as a rule, not just now for the moment.*

1. Stephen went to Italy in 2015, and in 2016 he visited France.

* neutral information, no action in progress

1. What do you think about the boss’s plan to move the company?

* The speaker asks for his/her partner’s opinion (no momentary thoughts)

1. Normally she lives in Glasgow….

* permanent state, not just at the moment; signal word ‘normally’

…. but at the moment she is staying with friends in Dover.

* action in progress now, at the moment (signal word)

1. Could you call later, please? I’m doing my homework.

* action in progress at this time

1. I was tidying up my room when I noticed a spider on the ceiling.

* action in progress at a certain point of time in the past (i.e. noticing the spider)

1. We are making scones. Would you like to join us?

* action in progress at this moment

1. We were chatting when the robbers came into the bank.

* action in progress at a certain point of time in the past (i.e. the robbers coming in)

1. Why didn’t you call earlier? Look, I have been waiting for your call for three hours now!!!

* progressive because the focus is on an uninterrupted action (waiting)

1. He likes to dress well. That’s why he always wears a tie.

* permanent state/general rule; signal word ‘always’